

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 5, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 16, 18 and 19 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for alleged indefiniteness. In particular, the Office Action asserts that these claims are indefinite because it is not exactly clear as to what the term “management device” is referring. For the purposes of examination, the Office Action assumed that the term “management device” is any portion of the communication control device and/or the management center. However, this assumption is misplaced since the control device can be seen to correspond to reference numeral 101a, 101b, etc. of Fig. 1, and the management center can be seen to correspond to reference numeral 105 of Fig. 1. Meanwhile, the management device of the claims can be seen to correspond to the central management device 103 of Fig. 1. Thus, the claims are clear on their face and are even clearer when read in light of the specification. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,136,368 (Inoue), and Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Inoue in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,281 (Seo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that Inoue’s effective date as a reference is its U.S. filing date of September 7, 2001. While the present application has a U.S. filing date of October

16, 2001, the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-318518, filed October 18, 2000. A certified copy of the foregoing priority document was submitted to the Patent Office on January 2, 2002.

Inasmuch as Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-318518 has an earlier filing date than the effective date of Inoue, Applicant is submitting herewith a sworn translation of the foregoing Japanese priority application. The Examiner is requested to review the sworn translation in its entirety to confirm for himself that each of the pending claims are fully supported by the priority document and that Applicant is thus entitled to his foreign priority date. Once the Examiner is satisfied that the claims are supported and Applicant is entitled to his earlier priority date, he is requested to remove Inoue as a reference against the subject application. Inoue having been so removed as a reference, the foregoing § 102 and § 103 rejections are believed to be obviated.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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